

Amendments to the Specification

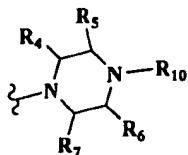
NE/I
9/21/05
This listing of amended paragraphs will replace all prior versions of the paragraphs in the application:

On page 4, lines 11-25, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

9/21/05
The present invention provides compounds useful as modulators of the melanocortin receptors, including selective modulators of MC-1R and/or MC-4R. Compounds that reportedly are selective agonists of MC-1R are disclosed in WO 99/57148, cited above, and selective antagonists of MC-1R are disclosed in WO 99/43709 to The Regents of the Univ. of Calif., "Melanocortin Receptor Antagonists and Modulations of Melanocortin Receptor Activity." Both WO 99/57148 and WO 99/43709 disclose large polypeptides. Small molecule inhibitors are advantageous in comparison to large polypeptides as they are less likely to induce immune reactions in patients and are more amendable to oral delivery. There remains a need for a small molecule useful as an MC-1R agonist, which is provided by the present invention. Melanocortin receptor modulators are also disclosed in US patent application Serial No. ^{6,713,487} 60/090,288, filed concomitantly herewith by the same inventors herein and assigned to the present assignee, claiming priority to US patent applications Serial Nos. 60/273,206, and 60/273,291, filed March 2, 2001, the entire contents of which is incorporated herein by reference. Also incorporated herein is WO 99/58501 to Novo Nordisk

On page 16, line 8 through page 17, line 13, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

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Additionally, one skilled in the field may make appropriate substitutions for the various groups of compounds of formula (I) herein, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, it will be appreciated that in compounds of formula (I), the group E can be replaced with other groups, such as the groups E₂, E₃ and E₄ shown in US ^{Patent} application Serial No. 6,713,487, filed concomitantly herewith and incorporated herein, i.e., groups having the formula, -NR₁₁R₁₂,



, and



; wherein the various groups R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈,

R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, and R₁₂ are as defined in that application. Additionally, one may appreciate that the group E as recited in compounds of formula (I) may be selected from, or replaced with groups such as,